ARRB file, 4-23-95

When we spoke briefly 4/16 Jim Lesar admitted that the ARRB will fail. He said the best we could hope for is to get them to get whatever we can disclosed. As an example of the value of that approach he cited CD 1359. When I asked its value he had little to say although he appeared pleased that it had been disclosed. He otherwise pushed to get it.

Earlier he had chided me mildly for antagonizing Marwell. He said nothing about Marwell's nonresponses to me or about him writing in an offensive manner himself and through the dope he had answer me in his name

Jim could not understand that the ARRB has defined "assassination record" to exclude what has the greatest likelihood of including the only undisclosed records that may be of real value, those relating to what the agencies did to the critics and how they did it and perhaps why.

The Smoking Gun gang and some assorted nuts and theorists actually expect a smoking gun to be in withheld records.

ARRB defined these records out after hearing about them from Jim in addition to me. He failed to get them to not exclude them and then was going to try to persuade them again after publication of their definition in The Federal Register.

Now they can claim to have listened to all who wanted to appear and that they have proceeded on what they learned from them. (Except for not looking for the real windshield they were told in Baston had been replaced in the limo!)

It can be argued, of course, that the Commissiom, aware of what Solo told th FBI, failed in not taking testimony from him. But that same claim can be made about Ambassador Mann and others and they began with the determination not to take any such testimony or have any such evidence. That was not because it made no sense at all, was really irrational. It was because they really did, some of them at least, believe it, especially with Hoover's campaign against Oswald as a red.

It remains to be seen whether ARRB they react in any way to what I have told them that is not addressed in anything they have written me. They may make a unproductive gesture designed not to be productive to cover themselves but the board, with ignorance or with intent, has decided not to make any real effort to get any significant withheld records disclosed and with the intent not to take the testimony it must take to locate or learn what happened to real evidence, like those autopsy notes. In ~~Whitewash~~ CM I published what I'd asked Howard Roffman to do for me, compare the factual information, like numbers, in the proctocol with the known possible sources of them. Most by far have no source in any existing and available record of any kind,

That would have been one meaningful way of starting off, taking sworn testimony from the prosectors on it. Another would have been to take testimony on agency interferences with us and with disclosures of what they did. That would have told the agencies they are series. They have signalled they are not serious.